

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/RA/HMONTGOMERY EB/OCA/CM/LAKLIEFORTH

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EB/CSB/OCA/CBERLIN

NEA/AFN/LMURRAY

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NEA/EX/JSCONNOLLY

COMM/CAGNE/PBHALE

COMM/OIM/RGARNITZ

EB/OCA/CM/SHARRIS

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R 311628Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS STATE 258303

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: BEXP, ECON, XF, XI

SUBJECT: NEAR EAST COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE

1. STATE AND COMMERCE CONSIDERING HOLDING JOINTLY FUNDED ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE, FOCUSING ON TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAMS AND PROBLEMS, IN TUNIS FROM TUESDAY, MARCH 30, THROUGH THURSDAY, APRIL 1.

2. FIELD PARTICIPATION IN TUNIS CONFERENCE TO BE DRAWN FROM NEAR EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN POSTS BECAUSE OF THE COMMONALITY OF CONCERNS IN THESE COUNTRIES AND MAGNITUDE OF COMMERCIAL AND OTHER ECONOMIC INTERESTS THEY REPRESENT TO UNITED STATES. AS USUAL, CONFERENCES TO BE "IN HOUSE", WITHOUT HOST GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT.

3. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE NEED EARLY JUDGMENT FROM YOU  
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REGARDING FEASIBILITY OF HOLDING CONFERENCE IN TUNIS AT

TIME MENTIONED. YOUR REPLY SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION FOLLOWING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT THAT WILL BE REQUIRED:

A) HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS AND CONFERENCE ROOM. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO DELUXE HOTEL WHERE ADVANCE RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE WITHOUT IN-

CURRING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT HOTEL IN WHICH ALL OR MOST PARTICIPANTS WOULD RESIDE WOULD PROVIDE SUITABLE CONFERENCE ROOM, FREE OF CHARGE. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF WASHINGTON AND FIELD ATTENDEES REQUIRING ROOMS IS 30 TO 40 PERSONS.

B) COMMERCE WOULD SEND EXPERIENCED ADVANCE OFFICER ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE TO HANDLE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS. EMBASSY OFFICER WOULD BE NEEDED TO SUPPORT AND COORDINATE.

C) SECRETARIAL SUPPORT. FULL-TIME SERVICES OF ONE SECRETARY FOR WEEK OF CONFERENCE WOULD BE NEEDED TO ASSIST WASHINGTON ADVANCE/PROJECT OFFICER WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSCRIBE NOTES.

D) TRANSPORTATION. TRADITIONAL PRACTICE AT THESE CONFERENCES IS THAT EMBASSY ATTEMPTS TO PROVIDE CAR AND DRIVER, AS REQUIRED, FOR THE 2 (STATE AND COMMERCE) CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRMEN.

E) REPRESENTATION. PRACTICE IN MANY PREVIOUS CONFERENCES OF THIS TYPE HAS BEEN FOR AMBASSADOR OR OTHER EMBASSY OFFICIAL TO HOST RECEPTION ON EVE OF CONFERENCE FOR PARTICIPANTS, LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, AND HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THIS IS NOT A NECESSARY FUNCTION, BUT WE WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE OF ANY EMBASSY EFFORT.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS SOONEST, ESPECIALLY ON WHETHER IT IS ABLE TO HOST CONFERENCE DURING THE PERIOD PROPOSED, AND WHAT PROBLEMS IF ANY POST MAY ENCOUNTER IN MEETING LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS. KISSINGER

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